



## Announcing Upcoming Traditional Pilot Project Grants from the Michigan Lifestage Environmental Exposures and Disease (M-LEEd) Center

February 18, 2025

*The official RFA for these upcoming pilot grants is expected in the coming weeks. Potential applicants should start preparing based on the below criteria:*

**Objective:** This anticipated RFA will provide grants to foster research related to the [M-LEEd Center's mission](#) and/or goals of the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences ([NIEHS](#)). Proposals should address one or more of the following objectives:

- 1) Provide initial support in environmental health sciences for early investigators);
- 2) Allow exploration of innovative directions representing a significant departure from ongoing funded research for established investigators in environmental health sciences;
- 3) Stimulate investigators from other areas of endeavor to apply their expertise to environmental health research and environmental medicine;
- 4) Work with the Center's Community Engagement Core (CEC) to establish new collaborations with community partners for projects on environmental exposures and disease, especially projects responsive to priorities identified by the CEC and the Stakeholder Advocacy Board;
- 5) Accelerate translation of novel laboratory discoveries to clinical applications, e.g., by identifying novel therapeutic targets, improving clinical diagnosis, or improving management of human disease linked to environmental exposures;
- 6) Expanding the concept of translational research within Environmental Health Sciences using the NIEHS definition of translational research.

**Project Funding Period:** Estimated to start in July 2025, ending on March 31, 2026

**Eligibility:** Any member of the University of Michigan Faculty (tenure-track, clinical-track, or research track) is eligible to apply as Principal Investigator (PI). A proposal should have only a single PI. An investigator can be PI on a single funded application each Pilot funding cycle but may collaborate on multiple projects in other roles. Postdoctoral trainees and fellows are not eligible to serve as PI; however, they are eligible to be Co-Investigators and may play prominent roles in conducting the project. If the PI has received an M-LEEd Traditional Pilot Project award in the last two funding periods (awarded in May 2023 and June 2024), they are not eligible for support as a PI on this RFA. Priority may be given to applications from PIs who are new to the M-LEEd pilot project program or are Early-Stage Investigators.

**Award:** Traditional Pilot awards will be made of up to \$25,000 - \$30,000 each. Please note that there is a potential additional \$5,000 supplement for projects in association with the Community Engagement Core, and proposals that fit into that category may be awarded up to \$35,000.

Additional information about the M-LEEd Center can be found on the Center's [website](#). Please follow this link for more pilot project details when they are available: [http://mleead.umich.edu/Pilot\\_Projects.php](http://mleead.umich.edu/Pilot_Projects.php).

**Questions?** Contact Pilot Program Director Dr. John Meeker, [meekerj@umich.edu](mailto:meekerj@umich.edu) and M-LEEd Center Administrator Rose Branstrom, [rbranstr@umich.edu](mailto:rbranstr@umich.edu).